tlie men around us ; to this one we are joined by the bond of relationship; to this other, by the ties of business ; and with a third, we have passed many a pleasant and profitable hour. Being so intimately connected with all around us, and all around, us being so Involved, we are constantly liable, in our judgments of character, to be warped by human prepossessions, or at least to become bewildered and confused.

The better way of forming a true estimate of the moral character of man is to examine ourselves. But then we are afraid to inspect ourselves, lest humbling disclosures should be made. And when we have the courage to examine our hearts, prejudice dims the eyes, vanity distorts the object seen, the treacherous memory brings up only the fair and flattering side of the picture, and the deceived judgment denies the sinful action, explains away the motives, or excuses the deed in the circumstances.

It appears, then, that we are too near the object examined to obtain an expanded view, and too personally connected with it to form an impartial estimate. We are in the condition of one surveying a bustling scene while in the midst of it; of a soldier, for example, trying to form a conception of the battle while engaged in the fight. Those who would obtain a correct view of the scene or battle, must ascend an eminence whence they may see it lying before and below them :—and is it not possible to reach a height whence we may survey human nature far above the passions and narrow interests which do here so confine and distract us ? Let us in imagination ascend to such an eminence,—higher than that mount, wrapt in clouds and thunders, from which Moses received the law revealed to men who had broken it, or than that other mount whence he descried the land of promise smiling with fertility, or even than that mount from which the Tempter shewed the Bepresentative of man the glory of the kingdoms of this world ; we are to rise

above these distracting or delusive scenes to those third heavens to which an Apostle was carried, whether in the body or out of the body he knew not, that there we may see all things as God sees them, when he looks down from heaven upon the children of men.

As we leave the earth in this flight of faith, we are gradually removed from the sympathies, the prejudices of the race, one after another of the network which ties us to the earth is broken or loosened, till at length we are altogether disentangled from